

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method of converting municipal solid waste into a useful compost material, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a stream of solid waste for treatment, including both inorganic and organic materials;

grinding the solid waste into particles;

transferring the ground solid waste into a drum;

adding manure and/or sludge to the drum and thereafter sealing the drum;

rotating the drum to mix the ground solid waste, manure and/or sludge;

sterilizing the contents of the drum by adding steam;

permitting the drum to cool and thereafter depressurizing the drum by venting the remaining steam;

removing the contents of the drum;

wherein the bioconversion of whole waste streams can be completed ~~all the steps of the method are completed~~ within a 24 hour period; and wherein the method converts both organic and inorganic materials into useful compost material;

wherein prior to grinding the solid waste it is scanned with a Geiger counter to detect the presence or absence of radioactive materials and wherein any detected radioactive materials are removed from the solid waste.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) A method of converting municipal solid waste into a useful compost material, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a stream of solid waste for treatment;

grinding the solid waste into particles;

transferring the ground solid waste into a drum;

adding manure and/or sludge to the drum and thereafter sealing the drum;

rotating the drum to mix the ground solid waste, manure and/or sludge;

sterilizing the contents of the drum by adding steam;  
permitting the drum to cool and thereafter depressurizing the drum by  
venting the remaining steam;  
removing the contents of the drum; and  
wherein prior to grinding the solid waste it is scanned with a Geiger counter  
to detect the presence or absence of radioactive materials and wherein any detected  
radioactive materials are removed from the solid waste.